

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claim 3 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend Claims 1, 2 and 4-10 to read as follows:

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1 1. (Amended) An electromechanical switch incorporating in its switch housing
2 at least one electrically conductive switching element (1) with associated electrically
3 conductive contact surfaces (2), wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces
4 away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm (5)
5 which also encloses at least [the] a region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated
6 with the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the switch housing (4; 6) wherein
7 said diaphragm (5) is prestressed in a transition area between the switching element (1)
8 and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently pressing the switching element (1) against the
9 contact surfaces (2).

1 2. (Amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein the elastic diaphragm
2 (5) comprises a thermoplastic.

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1 4. (Amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein the switch housing (4;
2 6) consists of two sections, with a base plate (4) containing the contact surfaces (2) and
3 a cover (6) with an opening (6') through which protrudes a part of the switching element
4 (1) with a diaphragm (5), wherein said two housing sections (4; 6) are preferably
5 connected in self-locking fashion by clamping or welding.

1 5. (Amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein the switching element
2 (1) is pin-shaped and has a round or oval cross section while its end (1'), which makes
3 contact with the contact surfaces (2) is preferably rounded into a convex tip.

1 6. (Amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein, in the area where it
2 rests against the switching element (1) and/or in the transitional area between the
3 switching element (1) and its connection to the switch housing (4; 6), the diaphragm (5)
4 is provided on its inside and/or outside with one or several notches (7).

1 7. (Amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein the switching element
2 (1) comprises a metal.

1 8. (Amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein three or four contact
2 surfaces (2) are associated with one switching element (1).

1 9. (Amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein the contact surfaces (2)
2 comprise contact pins (3) whose ends (2) facing the switching element (1) are
3 hemispherical or mushroom-shaped.

1 10. (Amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein the switch housing or
2 the switch-housing sections (4; 6) comprise a 2-component injection-molded plastic
3 material.

Please add the following new claim to the application:

12. (New) The switch according to claim 1, wherein the elastic diaphragm (5) comprises an elastomeric material.